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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/834,325	04/13/2001	Craig S.K. Clapp	SDAC-P01-072	5531

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EXAMINER
ENG, GEORGE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2643	12

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/834,325	CLAPP ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	George Eng	2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *6/13/2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *16-23* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15,24 and 25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9 .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the three modules do not have utilities either by themselves, or in other and different relationships, thereby one of the criteria of MPEP 806.05 (c) is not satisfied. This is not found persuasive because Group I is directed to a videoconferencing unit in connected with a docking station and a camera to form a video conferencing system, Group II is directed to a docking station in connected with a videoconferencing unit and network to form a video conferencing system so that camera is not essential to the combination of the docking station and the video conferencing unit, and Group III is directed to a camera in connected with a video conferencing unit to form a video conferencing system so that docking station is not essential to the combination of the camera and the video conferencing unit, thereby the subcombinations (Group II and Group III) have utilities in other combinations. Thus, the restriction is proper.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. This application contains claims 16-23 are drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 11. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancelation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 1-9/2003 (paper no. 9) has been considered.

4. The information disclosure statement filed 6/29/2002 (paper no.5) fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 15 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp et al. (US PAT. 5,802,281 hereinafter Clapp) in view of Hildin (US PAT. 5,844,599).

Regarding claim 1, Clapp discloses a video conferencing system comprising a main unit (115, figure 5), the main unit including a device interface (122, figure 5), a camera adapter (150, figure 5), a communication channel adapter (170, figure 5), a processor (200, figure 5) which inherently includes a memory, wherein the device interface includes one or more ports, each one or more ports adapted to provide an output to a device i.e., host computer system (72, figure 5) or receive input from the device, the processor and the memory configured to perform video conferencing functions, the camera adapter is configured to removably receive a camera unit that provides audio and video signals to the main unit through the camera adapter, the processor of the main unit programmed to process the audio signals and the communication channel adapter (170, figure 5) functioning as a docking station adapter to removably coupled to an input/output board (112, figure 4), i.e., docking station, that connects the main unit in a communicating relationship with a video conferencing network (col. 5 line 18 through col. 9 line 30). Clapp differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching to generate control signals to control at least one of the direction or zoom of the camera unit in response to the audio signals. However, Hildin teaches a voice following video system for dynamically detecting audio signals for determining a location of an active speaker and then generating commands to pan or tilt a camera in response to the audio signals (col. 4 lines 43-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to modify Clapp in generating control signals to control at least one of the direction or zoom of the camera unit in response to the audio signals, as per teaching of Hildin, because it makes user friendly by automatically tracking an active speaker during communications.

Regarding claim 2, Clapp discloses the device interface (122, figure 5) providing a connection to one or more video conferencing peripherals.

Regarding claim 3, Clapp discloses a camera unit removably electrically and mechanically connected to the main unit and connected in a communicating relationship with the main unit through the camera adapter (col. 6 lines 21-43), the camera including a plurality of microphones that provide the audio signals to the main unit (col. 6 lines 44-57). Clapp differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching the camera including at least one of a controllable direction or a controllable zoom responsive to control signals generated by the main unit. However, Hildin teaches such (col. 4 lines 43-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Clapp in having the camera including at least one of a controllable direction or a controllable zoom responsive to control signals generated by the main unit, as per teaching of Hildin, because it makes user friendly by automatically tracking an active speaker during communications.

Regarding claim 5, it is old and notoriously well known in the art of the camera unit receiving power from the main unit in order to simplify the operation structure.

Regarding claim 6, Clapp discloses to store a program implementing one or more video conferencing protocols (col. 7 lines 28-33 and col. 9 lines 47-60).

Regarding claim 7, Clapp discloses one or more video conferencing peripherals including at least one speaker (220, figure 5), a video monitor (76, figure 5) or a camera (78, figure 5).

Regarding claim 8, Clapp teaches video conferencing functions including coding and decoding audio, and coding and decoding video data (col. 9 lines 47-60).

Regarding claim 9, Clapp teaches to provide a user interface to a user of the video conferencing system (col. 7 lines 58-63).

Regarding claim 10, Hildin teaches the plurality of microphones have predetermined location relative to the camera, the processor for calculating a location of an audio source relative to the camera using the predetermined locations of the plurality of microphones and an audio signal received from each of the plurality of microphones and the processor responsive generating control signals to the camera to steer the camera to the location of the audio source (col. 4 line 4 through col. 5 line 19).

Regarding claim 11, Hildin teaches the controllable decision including to a controllable pan and a controllable tile (col. 4 lines 51-64).

Regarding claim 15, Clapp teaches one or more media processors (102 and 104, figure 5) that support processing of audio or video data in a videoconference.

Regarding claims 24-25, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth of claim 1.

7. Claims 4 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp et al. (US PAT. 5,802,281 hereinafter Clapp) in view of Hildin (US PAT.

5,844,599) as applied in claim 1 above, and further in view of Robinson (US PAT. 5,745,733).

Regarding claim 4, Clapp discloses the input/output board (112, figure 4) removably electrically and mechanically connected to the main unit and connected in a communicating relationship with the main unit through the communication channel interface (170, figure 5) and the input/output board including a network port for connecting with a video conferencing network (84, figure 3). The combination of Clapp and Hildin differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching circuitry for converting video conferencing network data between a first format compatible with the video conferencing network and a second format compatible with the communication channel interface. However, Robinson teaches a communication system comprising a frame processing logic (404, figure 4) for converting incoming frame received from a network (286, figure 2B) into data that can be recognized by a docking station and converting an outgoing signal into frames complying with a specific network protocol (col. 6 liens 50-59) in order to provide addition processing capability to the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Clapp and Hildin in having circuitry for converting video conferencing network data between a first format compatible with the video conferencing network and a second format compatible with the communication channel interface, as per teaching of Robinson, because it provides addition processing capability to the computer system.

Regarding claim 12, Clapp teaches the video conferencing system for communicating with communication channel and a host computer system (abstract) so

that it recognizes the input/output board including at least one of a peripheral component interface card.

Regarding claims 13-14, Clapp discloses the network port including at least one data network port and a telecommunications network port, i.e., the network port including one of a digital subscriber line port, integrated service digital network port, or a T1 line port (figure 6 and col. 7 line 64 through col. 8 line 14).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Granot et al. (US PAT. 6,466,249) discloses a video conferencing system having a base assembly connected with a loudspeaker assembly and a camera for performing a videoconference (abstract and figure 1). Wallace et al. (US PAT. 6,070,247) discloses a multi-media conferencing system comprising a docking station for integrates equipment to present information in the most desirable way (col. 2 line 54 through col. 4 line 51). Smith, II (US PAT. 5,768,163) discloses a media clip pad connected to a portable computer for video conferencing (col. 3 line 31 through col. 4 line 6). Nakamura et al. (US PAT. 5,652,619) discloses an image taking apparatus for a video conferencing (abstract).

9. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, V.A., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-6306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

George Eng

Examiner

Art Unit 2643